Relief and rehabilitation for Iraq

1261. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance has been provided for relief and rehabilitation in war torn Iraq; if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, under whose command and control relief and rehabilitation provided by India are being utilized; and

(c) to what extent UN role has been insured in such measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) In response to an emergency appeal of the UN, Government has announced assistance of US $20 million for the people of Iraq. Out of this commitment, Government is providing relief supplies of food items such as milk powder and, following the Iraqi Ministry of Health's 'Adopt a Hospital' programme, is setting up, jointly with Jordan, a hospital in Najaf. As part of our relief and rehabilitation efforts, technical assistance to Iraq in various areas is under consideration. Our assistance is provided to Iraq bilaterally and is based on needs assessments conducted by UN agencies and Iraqi authorities. Where required, distribution and utilization of our commodity assistance is handled through UN agencies such as WFP.

Change in Pak policy towards militant groups

1262. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any perceptible change in Pakistan Government policy towards militant outfits, like Hizbul Mujahideen, operating from Pakistan or Pak occupied Kashmir has been noticed since Prime Minister's talk with Pak Premier on phone regarding resumption of Indo-Pak dialogue;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported Pak move to restrict the movements of Hizbul Mujahideen; and